



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,095	10/19/2001	Moses V. Chao	CHAO=10A	6779

7590

06/30/2004

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
624 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

EXAMINER

HAYES, ROBERT CLINTON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1647

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/982,095	CHAO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.	1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a method for screening and identifying small molecules that transactivate a neurotrophin receptor and mediate neuronal cell survival comprising using assay A (treating neuronal cells with a small molecule and using an anti-phosphotyrosine antibody specific for a phosphorylated form of the receptor), classified in class 435, subclass 7.21.
 - II. Claims 1-4, 6-8 & 11-12, drawn to a method for screening and identifying small molecules that transactivate a neurotrophin receptor and mediate neuronal cell survival comprising using assay B1 (treating neuronal cells with a small molecule and reacting PI3-K with an anti-phospho-PI3-k antibody and detecting binding), classified in class 435, subclass 7.21.
 - III. Claims 1-4 & 6-10, drawn to a method for screening and identifying small molecules that transactivate a neurotrophin receptor and mediate neuronal cell survival comprising using assay B2 (treating neuronal cells with a small molecule and reacting Akt with an anti-phospho-Akt antibody and detecting binding), classified in class 435, subclass 7.21.
 - IV. Claims 1-4 & 6-8, drawn to a method for screening and identifying small molecules that transactivate a neurotrophin receptor and mediate neuronal cell

survival comprising using assay C (treating cultures neuronal cells with a small molecule and determining cell survival), classified in class 514, subclass 2.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Although there are no provisions under the section for "Relation of Inventions" in PEP 806.05 for inventive groups that are directed to different methods, restriction is deemed proper because these methods appear to constitute patently distinct inventions for the following reason:

Groups I-IV are directed to methods of identifying small compounds that affect either phosphorylation of a receptor, PI3-K, Akt, or affect neuronal cell survival. Each of these methods require physically and functionally distinct elements, and differ in their method objectives, method steps, and in the reagents used. For example, the use of the materially distinct product of a phospho-tyrosine antibody to detect a phosphorylated neurotrophin receptor of Group I is distinct from reacting materially distinct PI3-K with an anti-phospho-PI3-K antibody of Group II, or with reacting materially distinct Akt with an anti-phospho-Akt antibody of Group III, and in which no antibodies nor binding assays are required in the method of Group IV, and vice versa. The method of Group IV is further distinct from the methods of Groups I-III, because neuronal cell survival assays are required in the method of Group IV, and not required in the methods of Groups II-III, and vice versa. These inventions are, therefore, patentably distinct, since one is not required for the other.

Art Unit: 1647

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, they have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the non-coextensiveness of the search and examination for each group would constitute an undue burden on the examiner to search and consider all the separable groups with their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-0885. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, and alternate Fridays, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (571) 272-0887. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.



Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.

June 25, 2004

pat. sig.
1600